



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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May 1, 2007

TO: PHIP Executive Directors
Michigan Recovery Council
Improving Practices Team Leaders
Quality Improvement Directors
ACT Team Leaders

FROM: Irene Kazieczko, Director
Bureau of Community Mental Health Services

SUBJECT: A Field Guide to Assertive Community Treatment
(Final draft review and comment period: May 13 through June 30, 2007)

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is committed to improving practices for all people who receive services in the public mental health system. As a part of the effort to support improvements, we have produced the Field Guide to Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). Attached for review and comments is a draft of the Field Guide.

The Flinn Family Foundation, in partnership with MDCH and the Michigan Public Health Institute's (MPHI) Systems Reform Program, created the Field Guide through a Flinn Family Foundation grant. The project began in 2001 to:

- assess the model fidelity of the Michigan ACT adapted program model
- identify how to improve ACT services
- identify practices associated with positive outcomes to share with ACT teams and consumers, and
- inform MDCH policy development.

The Field Guide will be used by MDCH and Michigan ACT teams as part of the state's transformation work aimed at supporting a system of care based in recovery for adults with mental illness. Improving practices and offering consumers choices that include evidence-based care during the person-centered planning process are important elements of this effort.

Briefly, the ACT Evaluation Project activities included a mail survey of all Michigan ACT teams; site visits with selected teams, including one-on-one interviews with consumers; discussion group interviews with ACT team staff; one-on-one interviews with peer advocates; a questionnaire completed by ACT team staff that included peer advocates; and hospitalization data from ACT teams participating in site visits. It has been extensively field-tested and takes into account Michigan's unique environment, history in the provision of ACT services and our



largely rural population. The Field Guide is clearly marked with SAMHSA requirements and Michigan Medicaid requirements.

When reviewing the Field Guide, please note that items marked with a State of Michigan graphic reflect requirements of the Michigan Medicaid program. Some of these items, such as requirements for MDCH approval, ACT specific training, and team leader qualifications, are specific to Michigan. The items marked with a U.S. Flag graphic reflect the fidelity requirements contained in the SAMHSA evidence-based practices ACT implementation resource kit. There is only one item where SAMHSA and Michigan standards conflict with each other. SAMHSA supports a larger team staff size of 10 to 12 while the Michigan experience has found that teams of fewer than 100 consumers results in more individualized services. When neither symbol is present, the Field Guide directs best practice.

The next step of this grant project will include a stratified sampling of 15 Michigan ACT teams this fiscal year, and at least 15 teams in each of the next two fiscal years using the Field Guide. Results will be used to determine the team improvements and to form future training. The site visits will include Assessing Current Practice, Examining Agency Support for ACT, Measuring Consumer Outcomes and a focus group with consumers. Immediate feedback will be given to sampled ACT teams in Assessing Current Practice.

As this process begins, please review the Field Guide and send in your comments to: Alyson Rush at rusha@michigan.gov, or (517) 335-0250. An electronic copy of the guide is also located on the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) website at: www.michigan.gov/mdch (click on mental health and substance abuse; click on mental health and developmental disabilities; click on evidence-based and improving practices; click on evidence-based best practices; click on assertive community treatment).

Any changes made to the Field Guide will be placed on the website. Your thoughtful comments are appreciated.

Attachment

cc: Mental Health & Substance Abuse Management Team
Alyson Rush